



## freshwater drum

*Aplodinotus grunniens*

|                  |                        |
|------------------|------------------------|
| Kingdom:         | Animalia               |
| Division/Phylum: | Chordata - vertebrates |
| Class:           | Osteichthyes           |
| Order:           | Perciformes            |
| Family:          | Sciaenidae             |

### Features

The freshwater drum is a deep bodied, silvery fish whose head and body slope steeply up from the snout to the dorsal fin, making it humpbacked in appearance. The lateral line (sensory organ on the side of the fish) extends to the end of the tail. The name “drum” comes from its ability to produce sounds, using the gas bladder to amplify them. There are two dorsal fins, the first with spines. A long ray appears as a filament on the pelvic fin. Teeth are present in the throat. Adults commonly weigh five pounds, but the state record weighed 46 pounds and was 38 1/2 inches long.

### Natural History

The freshwater drum lives in rivers, lakes, and impoundments on or near the bottom. It is very tolerant of turbidity (muddy water). It eats insects, fish, and crayfish. It attains maturity at age five. Spawning occurs in May and June. The sounds produced by the drum may be used in the spawning process. The female deposits 200,000 to 400,000

eggs. Eggs and larvae float at the water's surface. The freshwater drum has an average lifespan of six to ten years. It is an important commercial and sport fish in the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers.

### Habitats

interior rivers and streams; natural lakes and prairie marshes; Constructed lakes, ponds, and reservoirs; Mississippi River; Missouri River

### Iowa Status

common; native

### Iowa Range

statewide

### Bibliography

Iowa Department of Natural Resources. 2001.  
*Biodiversity of Iowa: Aquatic Habitats* CD-ROM.